

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 IO-13 EUR-12 L-03
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DRAFTED BY AF/C:EMARKS:JR - AARENALES
APPROVED BY AF - WESCHAUFLELE
AF/C: TRBUCHANAN
AF/W - TWMSMITH

-----260051Z 116348 /63

O 260019Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 093307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF NIGERIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINISTER GARBA

REF: LAGOS 4559

1- DEPARTMENT AGREES EMBASSY SHOULD COMPLY WITH GARBA'S
REQUEST FOR BRIEFING ON ZAIRE SITUATION. YOU MAY DRAW
ON AVAILABLE MATERIAL (PARTICULARLY EMBASSY KINSHASA
SITREPS) AS NEEDED. TWO TELEGRAMS RELATING TO ALLEGED
INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA INVASION (KINSHASA
3770 AND RABAT 2186, BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

2. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM GARBA, STRICTLY
FOR HIS INFORMATION ONLY, THAT STATE DEPARTMENT
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REPRESENTATIVE (AF/C OFFICE DIRECTOR BUCHANAN) MEETING
IN NEW YORK TODAY WITH ANGOLAN UN REPRESENTATIVE
FIGUEREIDO TO REINFORCE MESSAGE GARBA HAS ALREADY
PASSED TO NETO, I.E., THAT WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN
OPENING TALKS ON NORMALIZATION WITHOUT
PRECONDITIONS BUT THAT SOME PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THE
SHABA CONFLICT IS NEEDED. YOU MAY TELL GARBA WE WILL

KEEP HIM INFORMED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN
US-ANGOLAN RELATIONS.

3. CABINDA AND NORTHERN ANGOLA: INFORMATION ON
CABINDA HAS BEEN VERY SCANTY OVER PAST MONTH,
INDICATING LITTLE OR NO SIGNIFICANT FLEC ACTIVITY
EITHER IN CABINDA OR ALONG ITS BORDER. FNLA ACTIVITY
ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MINIMAL SINCE LATE FEBRUARY.
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS OF MPLA (AND POSSIBLY
CUBAN) TROOPS REINFORCEMENTS IN SOME AREAS ALONG
BOTH CABINDAN AND NORTHERN ANGOLAN BORDERS. ANGOLA
CHARGED THAT ON APRIL 10 ZAIRIAN SHORE BATTERIES
FIRED ON AN ANGOLAN MERCHANT VESSEL AFTER IT HAD
COMPLETED A FOOD DELIVERY MISSION TO ANGOLAN PORT OF
NOQUI ON CONGO RIVER SOUTH OF MATADI.

4. MOBUTU'S RELATIONS WITH FLEC: IN A JANUARY 31
PRESS INTERVIEW IN PARIS, MOBUTU SAID HE WOULD NO
LONGER PERMIT FLEC ACTIVITIES AGAINST CABINDA. DURING
FEBRUARY HE PLACED FLEC'S PRINCIPAL LEADERS UNDER
HOUSE ARREST. THESE ACTIONS FOLLOWED A MID- JANUARY
RAID BY FLEC INTO SOUTHERN CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) WHICH
RESULTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IN CAPTURE OF THREE
FRENCH TECHNICIANS, WHO WERE LATER RELEASED AFTER
MOBUTU'S INTERCESSION.
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